

Message Text

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ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-10 L-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

EB-03 EA-07 DRC-01 RSC-01 /044 W

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R 100955Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1359

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 4136

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, RP, SN

SUBJ: M-16 RIFLE DELIVERIES TO PHILIPPINES

REF: (A) MANILA 12122 (NOTAL); (B) MANILA 12159 (NOTAL)

1. SENSITIVE SOURCE IN CHARTERED INDUSTRIES (WHICH PRODUCES M-16 RIFLES) AND MIDDLE LEVEL MINDEF SOURCE HAVE CONFIRMED TO DAO THAT GOS HAS SOLD APPROXIMATELY SAME NUMBER M-16 RIFLES INDICATED PARA 2 REF A TO GOP AND THAT DELIVERIES ARE STILL BEING MADE. ACCORDING FIRST SOURCE ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO "HIGHEST AUTHORITY IN GOP" REQUESTED ASSISTANCE ON EMERGENCY BASIS FROM "HIGHEST AUTHORITY IN GOS." GOP REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED TO GOS THAT GOP HAD TRIED TO PURCHASE RIFLES FROM COLT TO SUPPLEMENT RIFLES SUPPLIED BY U.S. MAP, AND THAT COLT COULD NOT SATISFY REQUIREMENT. ACCORDING SOURCE, GOS DECIDED IT COULD NOT TURN DOWN EMERGENCY REQUEST FROM "ASEAN BROTHER" AND CONSEQUENTLY MINDEF ALLOCATED RIFLES FROM ITS "WAR RESERVE" TO BE SHIPPED TO PHILIPPINES. FOR PAST TWO WEEKS GOP HAS BEEN SENDING C-130 AIRCRAFT TO PICK UP RIFLES. SOURCE INDICATED MINDEF ALSO CONSIDERED SENDING "MAG-AZINES" AS WELL AS RIFLES, BUT WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THESE WERE ALSO SENT. CHARTERED INDUSTRIES HAS ALSO CONFIRMED SALE OF SEVERAL MILLION ROUNDS OF M-16 AMMUNITION TO GOP.

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2. DAO SUBSEQUENTLY ADVISED PERMSEC MINDEF PANG TEE POW OF

SUBSTANCE INFO REPORTED PARAS 1 AND 2 REF A AND REQUESTED EXPLANATION. PANG GAVE NO INDICATION HE WAS AWARE OF SITUATION, BUT PROMISED TO LOOK INTO MATTER URGENTLY AND WOULD INFORM DAO SOONEST.

3. COMMENT: DURING PAST SIX MONTHS, EMBASSY/DAO HAVE NOTICED THAT GOS/GOP MILITARY RELATIONSHIP HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CLOSE. PHILIPPINES UNDER SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE SALIENTES HAS VISITED SINGAPORE ABOUT 3 TIMES DURING THIS PERIOD: GOS IS TRYING TO SELL GOP SINGAPORE VERSION (A-4'S) OF SKYHAWK AND SINGAPORE MANUFACTURED PATROL BOATS ARMED WITH GABRIEL MISSILE; GOP HAS OFFERED GOS USE OF PHILIPPINE AIRSPACE AND AIR BASES FOR ADVANCED TRAINING OF A-4S (SKYHAWK) SQUADRONS AND PILOTS AND RECENTLY GOS HAS NAMED ITS FIRST DEFENSE ATTACHE TO MANILA. (GOS HAS MILITARY ATTACHES IN ONLY TWO OTHER LOCATIONS - JAKARTA AND KUALA LUMPUR.) GOS MAY HAVE FELT IT HAD TO RESOUND TO GOP APPEAL FOR POLITICAL REASONS, ASSUME DECISION ALSO PARTIALLY MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO PROMOTE THIS DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP.
GRANT

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NNN

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